

# A Candle for Michael Newsletter

Issue #102 – October 2021

Sharing MJ news and comment from the World Wide Web



## Editorial

For his *This Is It* concerts, Michael Jackson had planned for *Thriller* to segue into the music from *Threatened*. As we saw in the *TII* movie, there was a nod to *Ghosts* as well. How I would have loved to have seen him perform that in front of a packed house...if not at the O2 (I wouldn't have had a ticket) then in the documentary film that was planned of his London residency. At least we have the rehearsal footage, and thank goodness Michael insisted on documenting EVERYTHING he did. These are now precious memories for all of us.

With Halloween coming we'll no doubt be playing and watching the *Thriller* and *Ghosts* short films more than usual, and encouraging others to enjoy them too. Every year around Halloween Michael's music soars on the streaming charts and more copies of his songs and albums are purchased as downloads, CDs or vinyl records. There's no stopping him, certainly not during pumpkin season!

Have fun, stay safe, and keep on *Michaeling!*

*Kerry Hennigan*

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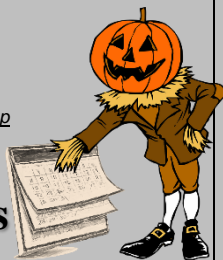
*Global MJ Pilgrim ("I'm with the doll")*

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## Calendar of MJ Events

**Ongoing** – **MJ ONE** by Cirque du Soleil, Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas

**Until 20 Nov** – **Laser Michael Jackson Planetarium Show**. Rowan University New Jersey.

**Until 30 Oct** – **Thriller Halloween Flash Mob Workshop Experience**, New Orleans. Tickets from [Eventbrite](#).

**9 Oct** – **MJ Music Day in Studio**, Paris. **SOLD OUT**

**16 Oct** – **In the Studio with MJ** – Tour of Neverland Live Stream for Asia and Australia. Purchase tickets [here](#).

**22-23 Oct** – **Candlelight: Michael Jackson, Hommage à la bougie** at Chapelle des Carmélites, Toulouse, France. Tickets [here](#).

**24 Oct** – **Thriller Parade**, Lexington, Kentucky. Details [here](#).

**25 Oct** - **Candlelight: Michael Jackson, Hommage à la bougie** at Salle Colonne, Paris. Tickets [here](#).

- **Spike Lee's response to Academy Museum display**  
Writer/director Spike Lee has been honoured with an extensive display reflecting his career (thus far) at the recently opened Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles. As reported in the [LA Times](#), Spike previewed the exhibition on Friday, Sep 24 and said: "I'm elated. I'm happy and honoured that this exhibition is here for the opening of the museum." However, he noticed there were no items referencing his work with or about Michael Jackson, i.e. "They Don't Care About Us" and the documentaries "Bad 25," and "Michael Jackson from Motown to Off the Wall." "MJ should be up there!" said Spike. "You gotta have Michael in here. I know they're going to rotate stuff, but Michael Jackson can't be coming off the bench. He's gotta be in the game when the horn blows!" Indeed!

- **MJ memorabilia to help fund African COVID care**  
As reported in [NME](#), money from the sale of Michael Jackson memorabilia seized from the Vice President of Equatorial Guinea will help pay for COVID-19 vaccines in the African country. Around \$27million of assets was confiscated from Teodorin Nguema Obiang Mangué including luxury vehicles and a pair of \$275,000 jewel-encrusted gloves belonging to MJ, according to the US Department of Justice. The United Nations will receive \$19.25million to buy and distribute vaccines in Equatorial Guinea, while \$6.35million will be handed over to a US-based charity "for the purchase and distribution of medicines and medical supplies throughout Equatorial Guinea," the justice department added.

- **Update on Safechuck and Robson appeals**  
[MJRepository](#) on Twitter has advised that the appellate court has **DISMISSED** James Safechuck's appeal after his lawyer Vince Finaldi failed to submit an opening brief by Sep 24, as ordered, after 121 days of extensions. Finaldi now has until Oct 15 to appeal the dismissal of his appeal. He is also still appealing the dismissal of Wade's case and associated fines.

- **Comedy movie "The Glove" in the works**  
A comedy movie called *The Glove*, about two friends in search of Michael Jackson's (mythical) training glove will be directed by Tim Kirkby commencing March 2022 according to [NME](#). Bob Mortimer and Vic Reeves will star. Mortimer explained it as a madcap road movie across Britain. "Vic and Bob are childhood friends who own a junk shop together where they both work and live. Profits are down and with their futures in jeopardy, they approach their obnoxious landlord to explain their 'rent' problems. Rather than helping them, the unsavoury character gives them a choice: eviction, or locate for him a rare and unusual item... Michael Jackson's training glove."

- **New MJ bench seat for Mistelbach statue**  
The fan-created statue of Michael located in Mistelbach, Austria now has a special MJ themed bench seat. As shared on the [Denkmal 4 Michael Jackson group's Facebook page](#), Vivien Rose and Martina Kainz had the idea to create the sponsored garden bench with MJ's toe-stand silhouette in wood for the armrests. Johann Weichselbaum from the Comradeship Association of Lower Austria and also a member of the Organisation "Flame of Peace" handcrafted the sides of the bench and installed them as a belated birthday present for Michael Jackson and the fans worldwide.

- **On the Line sells out MJ Music Day event**  
An MJ Music Day "in the studio" organised by the On the Line Michael Jackson fan club, France, has sold all available tickets for its Oct 9 event. To be held at the Abbey Road Institute in Paris, the event will be hosted by Brice Najar aided by photographer Christophe Boulmé. Guests include *This Is It* musician Mo Pleasure who will perform on bass and keyboards with singer Marion Duchemin. More details [here](#).

**25 Oct** – Major Love Prayer [www.majorloveprayer.com](http://www.majorloveprayer.com)

**30 Oct** – Michael Jackson Halloween Party in aid of The Nelson Mandela Children's Fund UK Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Annual MJ Day, London. Tickets available [here](#).

**31 Oct** – **Halloween**

**6 Nov** – In the Studio with MJ, Chicago 11am–7pm. Tickets [here](#).

**6 December** – MJ: The Musical shows start in NYC. Tickets [here](#).

## News of Note

- **HIStory Album certified 11xPlatinum in Denmark**  
Michael's double album "HIStory, Past, Present and Future, Book 1" has been certified 11x Platinum for sales exceeding 220,000 copies by the IFPI Denmark, the Danish subsidiary of the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry. Platinum and gold certifications awarded by IFPI Denmark are in recognition of sales milestones include streaming audio data, with 1,000 streams counting as a "sale". With twenty million units (forty million records), HIStory is the best-selling double album of all time. Thanks to [MJ Beats](#), Brazil for the update. View the IFPI Denmark entry [here](#).
- **J5 coloured vinyl releases for Record Store Day**  
This year's annual Record Store Day special releases in the US will include a limited edition (1,500 copies) blue vinyl reissue of the Jackson 5 album '[ABC](#)' on Nov 26. And on Dec 3 "[Diana Ross presents the Jackson 5](#)" will be a limited-edition orange vinyl release. Thanks to [MJVibe](#) for this news.
- **Neverland Playlists available on YouTube**  
Brad Sundberg has put together playlists of the music Michael had playing at Neverland. The playlists are accessible on YouTube and feature the exact versions on the music used at the ranch. The playlists are the Neverland Collections [1](#), [2](#) and [3](#) and [Neverland Quiet Hour](#), featuring softer music Michael wanted playing at night. Subscribe to Brad's YouTube channel [here](#). And don't forget the life stream of Brad's Neverland special for folks in Asia/Australia time zones on 16 Oct (see link in Calendar). There's also some cool Neverland-themed *In the Studio with MJ* merchandise available from [Bonfire](#).
- **Drake v MJ 'battle' gets Michael trending**  
When Billboard asked on Twitter "Is Drake in 2021 as big as Michael Jackson or The Beatles at their peaks?" MJ fans posted the obvious answer to that question, stating Michael's long list of achievements, and impact on popular culture. Conor Lochrie suggests in [his article](#) that such comparisons are "recency bias out of control." Nevertheless, as a result of all the tweets generated by MJ fans, his name and different song titles trended in many countries – providing yet another example of the strength of his living legacy.
- **Bill Nation interviewed by Brice Najjar**  
In another of his insightful interviews involving Michael's HIStory and Blood on the Dance Floor years, French MJ fan and author Brice Najjar ("Let's Make HIStory" and "Book on the Dance Floor") spoke with Bill Nation who photographed Michael in numerous countries, on set for his short films and on stage in concert. Bill reminds us that Michael was someone who really liked people and being able to meet people and walk in the crowd. "There were two guys, you know – the professional Michael and just Michael." Read the full interview on Brice's [website](#).
- **Jennifer Batten in magazine cover story**  
Iconic MJ guitarist Jennifer Batten is on the cover of the latest Pathways magazine which features an article about her Guitar Cloud Symposium, an online community of guided interactive guitar classes with professionals. There is also a section in which Jennifer talks about working with Michael Jackson as well as Jeff Beck. "Michael Jackson taught me the value of relentless rehearsal to make a show the best it can be," Jennifer says. "We rehearsed for a solid two months for the Bad tour in 1987. The result was pure relaxed confidence on opening night... His goal was to move people emotionally, and to wow them with things they never experienced before." The article commences on page 44 of the digital publication which you can access online [here](#).

- **MJ Candlelight concerts in France**

Two Candlelight concerts featuring the Yako Quartet will be held in France paying tribute to Michael Jackson. The concerts, which as the name suggests are conducted by candlelight, are in Toulouse on 22 and 23 October, and Paris on 25 October, with two shows per night on each date. Ticket links can be found in MJVibe's [article](#) and in our Calendar.

- **The Wiz live on stage in Manchester**

The first new UK stage production of The Wiz in 10 years will be performed at the Hope Mill Theatre in Manchester from 24 Nov to 16 January. First opening on 21 October 1974 at the Morris A. Mechanic Theatre in Baltimore, The Wiz moved on to Broadway and subsequently won seven Tony Awards in 1975. The big budget film production of 1978 featured Michael playing the Scarecrow – a performance that prompted high praise from critics and remains much loved by fans. More details and tickets available [here](#).

- **Escorting Michael to the World Music Awards**

In a recent article in Newsweek, private security contractor Simon Nelson related his experience of looking out for Michael on his visit to London for the World Music Awards. "In 2006, I was home on leave... when I got a call asking if I was available to work in London," Simon recalls. It wasn't until the next day when he arrived at Heathrow Airport that he discovered who the VIP was. Simon describes Michael as "nice; very calm and very quiet. I always remember him being very polite. He wasn't loud and he didn't move around quickly. He would slowly sit down and slowly lean forward. He was pleasant and softly spoken." Read the full story [here](#).



Michael arrives at the 2006 World Music Awards at Earls Court on November 15, 2006, in London. Bodyguard Simon Newton is pictured far left. Photo: DAVE HOGAN/GETTY IMAGES

- **New Book on Michael and Black Identity**

A new academic text by Sherrow O. Pinder titled "Michael Jackson and the Quandary of Black Identity" has been published as part of the SUNY series in African American Studies. The book deals with the broad subject of Black identity and applies it to Michael's life and art. It is available from Amazon. Review and links [here](#).

- **Moonwalker game a museum favourite**

The Moonwalker arcade game has proven to be a favourite of visitors to the Replay Amusement Museum in Tarpon Springs, Florida where visitors can play vintage pinball and video games. Check out the museum website [here](#) or MJVibe's [article](#).

- **Lexington, Kentucky's Thriller parade is back**

Dance rehearsals have begun for this year's Thriller Parade in Lexington Kentucky. The parade will take place on Sun 24 October (or the rain date of Mon 25). The parade will be preceded by a Halloween Variety Show commencing 5 pm, a Halloween Parade at 6.30 and finally the Thriller Parade at 7 pm. Both children and adults can participate as zombies in the Thriller re-enactment. For rehearsal dates and more details visit the Mecca Live Studio and Gallery [website](#).

- **New MJ rehearsal footage surfaces online**

Fans were thrilled recently when footage providing a brief glimpse of Michael behind the scenes preparing for the 1993 Super Bowl half time show surfaced online. It's available on [YouTube](#).